

CAMINO HORSEHIDERS BLOW TITLE CHANCES

They said it couldn't be done. They said a team couldn't lose four straight in the tight 14-game Metropolitan Conference baseball race and finish in the first division. Yet, El Camino's horsehid-ers may become the Cinderel-les of the league tomorrow when they meet head on with defending champion San Diego.

The contest will begin at 2:30 p.m. on the El Camino diamond.

A BELATED BID for the Metropolitan Conference base- ball crown ended Tuesday for El Camino as the scrappy In- dians blew the key games to the title, falling to Los An- geles Valley College, 3-2.

Although the margin of vic- tory was razor thin for the Monarchs, it was the Tribe's biggest defeat of the year. With one chance in four to finish the season to top of the conference, the Braves were dropped from contention as a result of the Valley conflict in the Metro title race — the best the Braves can hope to finish is now in fourth place.

EL CAMINO gave the league a run for its money last week, downing the loop leaders, Long Beach and Bakersfield, in its drive for the top.

Warrior coach Chuck Free- man threw all he had at the

invading Monarchs Tuesday in a game the Tribe had to win. El Camino's four top hurlers saw action in the three-hour nerve-tangler, but clinch hit- ting fell by the wayside as the Tribe scattered eleven almost worthless hits.

VALLEY'S STEVE Ariga started the Monarchs' drive in the third inning as he drew a walk from Brave starter Lance Viach. In a perfectly-executed hit-and-run play, Ariga scored from first on a two-bag blow by Chuck Abdecox. Monarch Dennis Zeuner picked up Abde- cox, driving the ball through the Tribe infield.

Valley tacked on another

run in the fifth, scoring the first run off fireman Dick King.

FOLLOWING an error on El

Camino's John Ranslem, who Jones and an error on center-

dropped a foul pop, Ariga fielder Frank Van Patten.

slapped a single to left. He El Camino managed to get

scored on a setfy by John men on base, but continued its

costly habit of leaving them

stranded.

The Tribe left 14 men on

base during the nine-inning

contest.

FRANK VAN PATTEN saw plenty of action on the sacks as he continued his torrid pace at the plate. Van Patten made his way to first four times via hits before someone noticed him and drove him home.

In the seventh, Van Patten scored a single by Nick Fus- cardo and an error Valley's Chuck Abdecox.

El Camino made its last bid for victory in the home half of the ninth stanza.

NICK FUSCARDO reached

first on an error by Monarch

first sacker Ron Shackelford. Bob Pier got the fans to their feet as he drove the ball 370 feet to the center only to have

Neal Stone flag it down. Bob Withers followed, driving Fus- cardo home on a two-bag hit and John Torek ended the

battle, with the tying run on third, drilling the ball to sec- ond baseman Abdecox to cut off the Tribe threat. Reliever Dick King was tagged for the loss.

El Camino (6-6-1) posted notice Friday and Saturday that it is a Metro power to be reckoned with, downing loop leaders Long Beach 3-0, and Bakersfield, 7-5.



Cindermen Vie in CIF Prelims

NORTH ON PLAYOFF TRAIL

The Fearless Spectator
By Charles McCabe, Esquire



Alvin Dark, the spiritual leader of the Giants, put the knock on the home run the other day.

This, take it from me, is ruddy courageous. It's like knocking Cardinal Spellman, or the American flag or the D.A.I.

The home run, or four-bagger, or circuit clout, is as sacred to our cultural tradition as the engaging bit of legal malarkey that corporations are persons and somehow entitled to maybe the protection of the Bill of Rights. And a bit more.

Ralph Kiner put the whole thing in proper perspective when he said homer hitters ride in Cadillacs and the rest of the pantheon drive Fords.

Alvin, at his press conference after a recent game, confided to the hungry authors that he is a bit worried because some papers run a daily box on the sports page showing how Giants Willie Mays and Orlando Cepeda stack up in the home run derby against Yan- kees Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris.

"That kind of stuff makes the guys swing for home runs," said Al, "and that's not too good."

In putting the rap on the homer, Mr. Dark aligned himself with one of the true iconoclasts of the game, Mr. Rogers Hornsby, who has just authored a dandy tome called "My War With Baseball."

Hornsby led the National League in hitting for seven years and had the highest batting average in league history with .424 in 1924. It's his contention there aren't going to be any more .400 hitters in the game. The last was Ted Williams, who made it in 1941.

Hornsby blames the decline of batting on the homer fetish. He says, "When you swing wild—and swing from the heels, your batting average naturally drops. This is why guys are winning the league batting championships with averages like .320 and .325. In my day you had trouble breaking into the top five with averages like that."

"... You don't have to swing hard to hit a home run. I never tried to hit a home run in the 23 years I played in the big leagues. Not once."

"The records show I hit 302 home runs and led the National League in homers for two seasons with 42 in 1922 and 39 in 1925. I didn't let the home runs excite me enough to swing wild. I had a batting average of over .400 in both of those seasons."

"I NEVER KNEW WHEN I HIT A HOME RUN! I just tried to meet the ball, and didn't try to get fancy. I tried to hit the ball in the largest safe area—straight up the middle of the diamond. The pitcher was my target. I would have like to hit him each time. Today the home run guys pick out somebody in the bleachers or the flagpole as their targets."

Hornsby contends the livelier ball helps guys hit more homers today. "And it's much easier to hit a home run because all the parks have been chopped down to put in more seats."

Most batting slumps he continues, are caused today by batters losing their heads over home runs. And he reminds us all that the 1918 home run championship was won by Wooden Shoes Cravath, with eight home runs. That's right, eight.

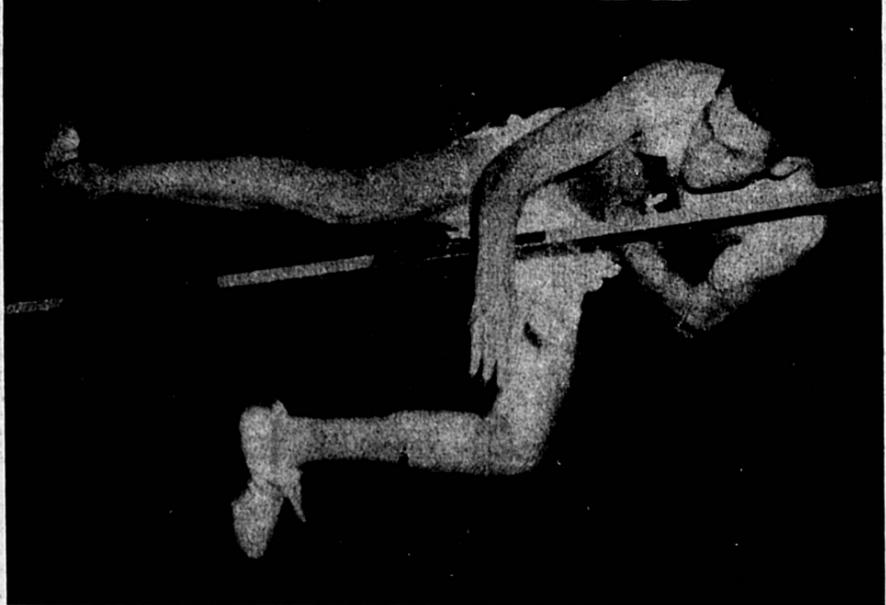
Mr. Dark is unquestionably on the side of the angels in his misgiving about the long ball. I just hope his kindly boss, Squire Horace Stoneham, doesn't hear about it. Al might end up eating out in Tacoma, where I hear the steaks ain't the greatest.

Ruth League Holds Dance

Torrance Babe Ruth League announces that it is holding its annual dance at the Retail Clerks Union Hall, 25949 Belle Forte, Harbor City (between Western and Normandie just

south of Pacific Coast High- way) Saturday at 9 p.m.

Music will be supplied by the Mel Coates orchestra. There will be a door prize drawing each hour and re- freshments.



EASING OVER . . . Slipping over the high jump bar at 6-0 in the Bay League finals last week, North's John Smith clears height which netted him a second place. Smith will

bid for a berth in the CIF semifinals in the preliminaries at Burroughs High on Saturday. (Herald Photo by John Roberts)

Spikers Tangle Saturday

Months of hard work for local spikers will be put on the line Saturday as North, South, and Torrance High cindermen compete in the CIF preliminaries.

South and North, representing the Bay League, will be pitted against teams from the Foothill and Channel Leagues at John Burroughs High. Torrance, from the Pioneer League, will face squads from the Moore and Coast leagues at Millikan High.

South figures to have only one serious threat in the varsity division. Pole vaulter Chuck Smith stands a good chance of reaching the finals, according to Spartan mentor Dick Scully, if he can over- come a seriously sprained ankle.

SMITH HAS recored a jump of 12-8 in the pole vault and won the loop crown at 11-8 last Friday. Coach Scully indicates Smith has been receiving cortizone shots for his ankle, injured in the league preliminaries, and should be in partial shape Saturday.

Chuck Hanson will be the big South hope, bidding for wins in both the 70-yard high hurdles and the 120-yard low hurdles.



JERRY ASCOLESI Triple Threat Spiker

Hanson has a best of 8.9 in the highs, the fastest in the South Bay area, and a 13.3 in the lows.

The Bee 660 relay team will also bear watching. Jeff Fleenor, Jim Christain, Hanson and Lance Benett compose a combo that was ubetaten against Bay League competition in the vary- 820 relay during the dual meet campaign.

THE SPARTAN foursome recored a school record-break- ing time of 1:08.0 in the league finals to pick off first place in their event. Scully believes the relay team may stand a chance of reaching the finals if they can improve on their baton passing.

Steve Lawson appears a good bet to at least reach the semi-finals in the 1320 with a best time of 3:18.7.

The Spartan Cee 440-yard relay team of Mark Fletcher, Tim Kellogg, Ron Marra and Randy Siller, with a best of 46.9, will also run in the prelims. Boasting outstanding baton work, the combo broke their previous best of 47.4 seconds in taking a second in the loop finals.

Fletcher is also enter- ed in the hurdles for South. North High will have only two men with good chances in the varsity division. Half-miler Kurt Klein and high jumper

John Smith should at least reach the semi-finals.

Klein has run right on two minutes, while Smith has an unofficial jump of 6-4.

TRIPLE-THREATER Jerry Ascolesi is the big Torrance thincled. Ascolesi will compete in both the varsity hurdle events as well as the high jump, where he has recorded a 6-4 leap.

Tony Bareford will get one last chance at 880, but his coach, Joe Sarthou, is uncer- tain as to whether or not his injured leg will hold up to the strain. Bareford dropped out

of the league half mile finals before the 440.

Dennis Dyer will go in the mile for Torrance, while George Ojard will try his hand at the shot put. Ojard won the Pioneer crown with a toss of 54-4 and Dyer took the mile title with a 4:31.5 clocking.

Bob Henderson, second in the varsity mile in the loop finals, has moved down to the Bee division and will test the 660 field along with Lar- ry Parker. Both have times close to 1:26.0, barely a second be- hind the top time listed this year, and should reach the finals, according to Sarthou.



DRIVING FINISH . . . Coming across the finish line an easy 150 yards ahead of nearest competition, Torrance distance runner Ivor Sampson hits end of 1320 in Pioneer Finals, stopping the watches in 3:19.4. (Herald Photo by John Roberts)

Hopeful Saxon Nine Engages Inglewood

Continuing its bid for a CIF baseball playoff berth, North High journeys to Inglewood today for a 3 p.m. encounter in the final scheduled Bay League encounter of the season for both teams.

With assurance that they can not finish any lower than third, Coach Bob Shoup's Saxons will be battling for a conceivable tie for first place in the jam-packed Bay race.

Morningside heads the loop with an 11-3 mark with Hawthorne already through with its schedule, second at 11-5. The North nine trails in third at 9-6.

THE MONARCHS encounter Redondo today, and should they lose, will have to play a make-up encounter with South High. Should Morningside lose both of those games, then a protest with North will be played. The game would continue from the fifth inning with MHS leading, 7-1.

Coach Shoup admits its like "Drawing to an inside straight," but the Saxons still have a mathematical chance of gaining a share of the circuit crown.

AT ANY rate, the North mentor feels that, should his men win today, the CIF will pick three teams from the rugged Bay League to advance into the CIF playoffs.

On Tuesday, the Saxons kept their hopes alive with an easy 11-3 victory over Inglewood.

TAKING advantage of wild- ness by two Sentinel chuckers, three runs were walked across the plate, North tallied at least one in every inning but the fifth to run its season record to 14-7.

Jon Beck hurled the first four innings for the winners, gaining credit for the victory. Finally controlling his wild- ness, Beck whiffed eight men, walking but three.

SPARKY DAVIDSON and Jay Baker worked on the mound after Beck had pre- served the win.

Bill Kehoe and John Mars- den each took a turn at wal- oping a circuit clout for North with Kehoe going 3 for 4 at the dish and Marsden swinging the club at a 2 for 2 rate.

Spartans Battle Mira Costa Nine in League Final

Putting the capper on its regularly scheduled Bay baseball campaign, South en- gages Mira Costa today in a 3 p.m. battle on the Spartan dia- mond.

Attempting to improve their 6-8 circuit mark, the Spartans will open with Ken Spellman on the mound. Spellman has been battling in tough luck throughout the year, carrying an 0-5 record despite throwing a three-hitter and a four-hit- ter.

Behind the hitting of Dan Ely and the chucking of Ken Turner, South carried home a 10-3 victory over the Mustangs on Tuesday.

TURNER threw his second two-hitter of the year, whiffing 13 men, but giving up nine walks. The lean Spartan has thrown two one-hitters and a three-hitter as well as the two- bingle efforts to raise his loop slate to 5-1.

Ely, along with Glen Jonas and Turner, the top South stickman, went 3 for 4 against Mira Costa, driving in four RBIs. Turner also helped his own cause with the bat in the third frame, bashing a two run circuit clout over the left cen- ter fence.

OPENING their scoring in the second frame, the Spartans pushed a pair of runs across after one man was out.

Jonas walked, stole second and went to third on Spell- man's single to right. Jonas came across when the catcher overthrew second base at- tempting to nab Spellman stealing. Ely came across with his first hit of the contest, a single, to push Turner home.

Tartar Horsehid-ers End Schedule Today

Receiving the solid pitching that has been noticeably lacking all season, Torrance prepared for its final Pioneer League tilt of the season today with a 4-1 victory over Lennox on Tuesday.

The Tartars will wrap up the schedule this afternoon against Palos Verdes at Torrance Park.

Torrance mentor Irv Kasten will probably open with Don Coil on the mound. Coil carries a 2-1 record for the season.

IRV PALICA was the hero for the Tartars against Lennox, throwing two hit ball as well as wielding a big bat.

Palica sent 10 Lennoxers down swinging while giving up only three free passes to record his third win against five defeats.

Torrance opened the scor- ing in the initial stanza, when, with two out, Palica and Steve

McGuire walked, Steve Waters doubled in a run and Coil singled in McGuire.

In the fifth, with one man gone, Coil was safe on an error. Bob Clark singled him to third and Jerry McLean drove the run across with a sacrifice fly.

THE FINAL Tartar tally of the contest came in the sixth frame as Terry Greason singled and came across on Palica's lengthy double.

Lennox's only run of the encounter was unearned as two errors and a walk produced the third inning marker.